

Whereupon, on motion of Dr. Elwyn, it was  
*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to  
 its President, for his very generous donation towards a better  
 arrangement and accommodation of the Library.

---

*Stated Meeting, December 2.*

Present, twenty members.

Dr. DUNGLISON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Secretary of l'Ecole des Mines, dated Paris, 13th July, 1853, accompanying a donation to the Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, for the year 1852. Vol. 143. Parts 1, 2. London. 4to.—*From the Society.*
- Astronomical and Magnetical and Meteorological Observations, made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the year 1851, under the direction of George Biddell Airy, Esq. M.A. Astronomer Royal. London, 1853. 4to.—*From the same.*
- Observations made at the Magnetical and Meteorological Observatory at Toronto in Canada. Printed by order of her Majesty's Government, under the superintendence of Col. Edward Sabine, of the Royal Artillery. Vol. II. 1843, 1844, 1845: with Abstracts of the Observations to 1848, and, in some cases, to 1852, inclusive. London, 1853. 4to.—*From the British Government.*
- Memoirs of the Royal Astronomical Society. Vol. XXI. Parts 1 and 2. London, 1852. 4to.—*From the Society.*
- Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, containing Papers and Abstracts of Papers, and Reports of Proceedings of the Society, from Nov. 1851, to June, 1852. Vol. XII. London. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- On the Impregnation of the Ovum in the Amphibia. (Second Series revised). And on the Direct Agency of the Spermatozoon. By George Newport, F.R.S. F.L.S. &c. (Phil. Trans. Lond. 1853). 4to.—*From the Author.*

Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, showing the progress of that work during the year ending Nov. 1851. With a volume of Maps. Washington. 8vo.—*From Prof. A. D. Bache, Supt. U. S. Coast Survey.*

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Vol. VI. No. 11. Sept. Oct. 1853. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Academy.*

Annales des Mines. V. Série. Tome III. 2 livraison de 1853. Paris. 8vo.—*From the Engineers of l'Ecole des Mines.*

Judge Kane referred to a former communication made by him in relation to the progress of discovery in the Arctic regions,—and exhibited a map of that portion of the globe, on which he traced the courses of various expeditions sent thither for exploration. He showed the track of the American expedition under Lieut. Dehaven, to which Dr. Kane was attached,—and noticed the indications observed by them, at several points, of the party under Sir John Franklin having been there. He adverted to the discovery of “Grinnell land,” by the American expedition, on which they noticed a mountain, estimated at a height of 1500 feet. Eight months after this, a party of British explorers claimed to have discovered the same land, which they named *Albert land*. He noticed a recent attempt to deprive the American party of the credit of this discovery, by alleging a prior discovery, in an official communication to the British Government, which he showed to be a misconception;—proving, from the account of Captain Belcher’s recent explorations, that the discovery is incontestably due to the American expedition. The Judge adduced arguments in favour of the existence of an open polar sea, and showed the probability of Sir John Franklin’s party having passed into that sea, whatever may have been their subsequent fate. He referred to the probable course of operations of the American party now in those regions, since they were heard from at Upernavik.

Mr. Lea said that when recently in England he had conversed with the Rev. Dr. Scoresby, and other gentlemen well acquainted with the progress of Arctic exploration, and is led to doubt the existence of an open polar sea. Dr. Scoresby, he says, is of the opinion that future explorations must be made by land, if pushed beyond the limits of present knowledge. Mr. Lea mentioned several circumstances which led him to suppose that an eternal barrier of ice surrounds the north pole, and referred to the currents in those seas, as mentioned by navigators.

Dr. Franklin Bache, the President, gave notice that at the next meeting he should deliver an address on the affairs of the Society.

Mr. Lea read an extract of a letter from Dr. R. W. Gibbes, of Columbia, S. C. in relation to an original letter from Thomas Penn to Sir William Johnston, dated February 18, 1768, which letter was presented to the Society.

The Treasurer presented his Annual Report, which was read and referred to the Committee of Finance.

The Committee of Publication presented their Annual Report, which was read.

The Society proceeded to vote upon the proposed amendment to its Laws, read at last meeting, to wit: Add to Chap. VII. of the Laws, as Article 7, the following: "The ex-Presidents of the Society shall be members of the Board of Officers and Council:" which was adopted by a vote of more than three-fourths of the qualified members present.

---

*Stated Meeting, December 16.*

Present, twenty-eight members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Horticultural Society, London, dated Regent street, 18th October, 1853; from the Linnean Society, dated Soho square, London, Nov. 8, 1853; from the Society of Antiquaries, dated Somerset House, London, 18th Nov. 1853; from the Royal Asiatic Society, dated London, 19th Nov. 1853,—severally acknowledging the receipt of the Transactions of this Society, Vol. X. Part 2, and of No. 48 of the Proceedings:—

From the Corporation of Harvard College, dated Cambridge, Nov. 2, 1853, acknowledging the receipt of No. 49 of the Proceedings:—

From his Excellency John F. Crampton, her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Washington, dated December 14, 1853, announcing a donation, on the part of the British Government, for the Library of the Society: and—